

## EXCELLENCE • IN • SERVICE

# WEATHER TESTS CITY'S EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

## RESPONDING TO THE STORMS OF 2007



*"The City did a great job with the storm cleanup! We greatly appreciate it."*

*-Bill Borchers, resident*

**I**N AUGUST 2007, two back-to-back storms swept through Bloomington, downing power lines, snapping trees and scattering debris across city streets. The City was quick to respond. Dispatch, Police and Fire handled storm-related emergencies, Public Works cleared blocked streets, and many other departments within the City collaborated to answer resident questions and disseminate information. It is with excellent training, dedication and pride in community that the City is prepared to respond to all emergencies.

*"Thank you for your assistance and patience with moving the trees on our block after the big storm!"*

*-Holly Bertagnoli, Jerry Firth, Ken and Marly Drebendstedt, residents*

### FIRST RESPONDERS

**FIRE AND POLICE** were among the first responders to the August storms. The Bloomington Emergency Operations and Dispatch Centers answered scores of calls, ranging from concerns over downed power lines and loss of power to flood damage. The Fire Department responded to 109 calls for the August 11 storm and 43 calls for the August 28 storm. Police responded to 58 calls on August 11 and 35 calls on August 28.

"This is why we conduct trainings and have specialized equipment, so when a disaster strikes we are prepared to deal with it," Police Chief John Laux said.

During severe weather, Emergency Management feeds information to the City's communication outlets, works

with the community to help businesses reopen, and gets people back into their homes if they have been left with no power, no water or damaged property. After the August storms, Emergency Management applied \$173,000 in assistance from Hennepin County to help with debris removal and cleanup.



*"I just wanted to say thank you for having the resources for tree removal ... on your Web site, along with contractors to call. It's great to have all the information we need in one place!"*

*-Peggy Moriarity-Boldt, resident*

### COMMUNICATING VITAL INFORMATION

**C**OMMUNICATING INFORMATION to residents and businesses has always been a priority for the City. When an emergency occurs, prompt and precise communication is especially important. After the storms, the City immediately disseminated information via its Web site, cable channel and storm information hotline. New Web technology gave the City the ability to

*"We are so pleased with how the City handled the cleanup after the storm. The two gentlemen who came and picked up the debris from our street even raked the small stuff left over on our lawn."*

*-Anonymous*

### THE BIG CLEAN UP

**D**URING THE STORMS, Public Works went from emergency response mode, setting up flashers and caution tape on streets with downed power lines, to recovery mode, clearing blocked roads and picking up debris. At the end of the recovery process, nearly 8,000 truckloads of storm-damaged trees and brush had been collected citywide. In keeping with its commitment to sustainability, the City recycled the collected tree debris. After crews from District Energy St. Paul grinded the debris into wood chips, the chips were recycled into fuel for St. Paul Cogeneration, a combined heat and power plant providing electricity to Xcel Energy and hot water to District Energy St. Paul.



1955



Bloomington is home to 28,900 residents and 85 businesses.

1956

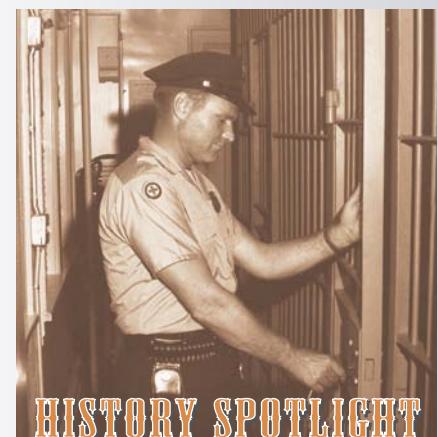


Metropolitan Stadium opens to a crowd of 18,366 for a Triple-A Minneapolis vs. Wichita baseball game.

1958



Ordinance passes requiring residential subdivisions to make a 10 percent park dedication.



### HISTORY SPOTLIGHT

**T**HE BLOOMINGTON POLICE Department was formed in 1953 with three officers. Today, the department has 116 sworn officers. Since 1972, more than 350 young men and women have participated in the Bloomington Police Department Explorers program, designed for males and females, 14 - 21 years of age, who have an interest in law enforcement.



### PARKS AND RECREATION GETS PEOPLE OUTDOORS RECORD ATTENDANCE AT EVENTS

**R**ESENTERS GOT OUT and enjoyed Bloomington's parks and open spaces in 2007. Arts in the Parks events, such as concerts, festivals and other outdoor activities, were attended by a record 8,000 people. This does not include Summer Fete weekend, which was attended by nearly 40,000.

The first Bloomington Farmers Market was also a huge success. On opening weekend, more than 2,000 people attended the market to purchase items from local farmers, growers and producers. Visitors had their pick of fresh vegetables, breads, fruit and flowers. More than 21,000 visitors attended the Farmers Market during its 14-week season, which ran Saturdays, July - October. The City of Bloomington is planning for another successful Farmers Market in 2008, starting on June 14.

